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The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" We wanted to introduce one, but there are still some matters on which some consultation is necessary."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether it is the opinion of the Government that temple committees as contemplated under the Act have not been constituted on account of financial reasons? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" Yes."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether in the case of any of the temple committees which had its election list ready and which applied for permission for election Government have refused permission? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" No, Sir. In Tanjore, Tinnevelly and South Arcot, elections were held and the elected committees are now functioning. We have not turned down the request of any committee."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar :—" Why are not committees elected in Madura, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and some others, where I believe they have money? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu :—" The committees could not be constituted by election."

Agriculture

Development of the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

* 36 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any steps to develop the cultivation of fruits and vegetables for the market as suggested by the Royal Commission on Agriculture;

(*b*) whether any horticultural research is being done by the Department of Agriculture in this Province; and

(*c*) whether any course of training in fruit culture or in the preservation of fruits and vegetables is given at the Coimbatore Agricultural College?

A.—(*a*) A scheme has been submitted to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for financial help for opening a fruit research station in the plains; a survey of fruit cultivation and marketing in the Central Districts has been recently started and measures to help the export of plantains to Northern India are receiving attention.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Lectures on fruit culture are given at the College where an orchard is maintained for instructional purposes. The study of preservation of fruits and vegetables has not yet been taken up by the Department.

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Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I ask the hon. Minister whether the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture regarding the cultivation of fruits and vegetables have ever been considered by the Government?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" Yes."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" With regard to (b), may I know whether any special officer has been deputed for the purpose?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" No special officer has been deputed."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" As this is a very important section of agriculture, why have not Government appointed a special officer for this purpose?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" No funds to appoint one."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" With regard to the latter part of the answer to (a), may I ask what is being done in the matter of marketing?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I may say, Sir, that the Director of Agriculture has said that he would depute one of the officers of his department and he would also write to the Directors of Agriculture in other provinces in that matter."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" What steps do the Government propose to take to improve the cultivation of fruits?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" Experiments in cultivation have been done at some stations. Nothing has been done so far as marketing is concerned."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know why this Government does not think in the lines of other Governments in other Provinces who are helping the ryots in the matter of marketing?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I am not aware of things being done by other Governments. Whatever is possible by this Government will be done."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether free advice is made available to the ryots who are interested in cultivation of fruits from the department of Agriculture?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" Certainly. If any advice is sought, the department is prepared to give it."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Free of cost?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" Yes."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether there is any officer in that department who can be called an expert in fruit culture?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I do not think any one can be called an expert."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask what is the nature of the advice given?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"There are officers in the department who know something about fruits; but as I said, they are not experts."

Registration

Opening of a new Sub-registry Office at Perdal.

* 37 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any sub-registry offices have been closed in Malabar this year; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to open a new office at Perdal in South Kanara?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether representations have not been made time and again regarding this matter?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I am not aware of it."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether representations were made to the hon. Minister when he visited South Kanara?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"That was three years ago."

Veterinary

Closure of Veterinary dispensaries.

* 38 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of veterinary dispensaries that have been closed this year as a measure of retrenchment; and

(*b*) the number of touring billets that have been abolished for effecting retrenchment?

A.—(*a*) Four.

(*b*) Six.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether the Government means to say that some schemes came up and they were pending and have all been disposed of?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Do I understand him correctly—I say that no schemes were ever sent up?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"No scheme ever reached the Government."